

PC UPDATE

April 2018



A full house gathered for the 49th Annual Academic Scholarship and Awards Ceremony.

Scholarship Spectacular



Porterville College interim President Bill Henry presents the Joseph T. and Mary Lee Bonnar Memorial Endowed Scholarship to Cristobal Carranza and Kimberly Cisneros.

\$155,400 in Scholarships and Awards Presented to PC Students

Speeches were given, pictures were taken, and lives were changed Friday night, April 20, at the 49th Annual Academic Scholarship and Awards Ceremony at Porterville College.

Inside a packed PC gymnasium, 148 individual scholarships and awards totaling \$155,400 were presented to 100 PC students. The scholarships and awards are made possible by donations made to the Porterville College Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the college.

“This is a monumental day in which all of your hard work has brought you to the point of being recognized as the

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best in your fields of study,” Kern Community College District Chancellor Tom Burke told the students.

A rigorous process is followed to select the recipients.

Each scholarship and award application is scored by every member of the PC Scholarship Committee. Points are allocated based on the following categories: the applicant’s grade point average, academic evaluation, financial need, activi-

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BILL HENRY
PC Interim President

ties (if applicable), and references.

The Scholarship Committee then meets to consider the criteria for each scholarship and award. The criteria are established by each of the donors and may include all or a combination of the following: GPA or academic achievement; whether the student is continuing at PC, graduat-

ing, and/or transferring to another college; specific or recommended major course of study named by the donor; financial need; activities at PC or in the community (if applicable); and unique, donor-defined specifics.

Students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible for scholarships while those with a GPA of 2.5 or

above are eligible for awards.

“I speak on behalf of the entire PC family when I say I am so proud of all these students and what they have accomplished,” PC interim President Bill Henry said. “The sky is the limit for them.”

The Foundation also will award 40 \$1,000 PC First scholarships to local high school students who attend PC for the first time this fall.

For more information, contact the Foundation office at 791-2308 or 791-2319.

Underwood Named Scholar of the Year

Samuel Underwood, who will be graduating from Porterville College this spring

and transferring to California State University, Bakersfield, to study English Literature, was selected

by PC’s Academic Senate as the 2018 Scholar of the Year.

Here’s what PC English professor Kathryn Benander, who nominated Underwood for the honor, had to say about him:



“Sam is an inspirational student who brings natural curiosity, an analytical mind, and academic excellence to each of his classes and to the PC campus as a whole.

“In class, he helps other students to understand the materials on a deeper and more intellectual level; outside of class, he inspires students to care about education on a larger scale while helping them to see their own educational needs and other concerns in the larger community.

“Sam has dedicated his

time to being the Phi Theta Kappa President, a mentor, and to other leadership roles throughout our campus and in our classes. He has organized and helped to publicize events like a blood registry drive, Phi Theta Kappa leadership activities, and fundraiser events.

“He is an exceptional person who is selfless and always willing to help. Sam has made PC a better place to be for other students, faculty, and many others on our campus and in our local community.”

Arvizu PC's New VP of Student Services

Primavera Arvizu, a Central Valley native who has 13 years of higher-education experience, was introduced Wednesday, April 18, as Porterville College's new Vice President of Student Services. In her role, Arvizu will work to ensure that the right programs, services, and support that all students need to graduate on time and transfer are in place at PC.

"I really like smaller institutions. That is what drew me to PC," Arvizu said. "I am looking forward to providing opportunities to students who face barriers and obstacles and would otherwise think that education is not for them. I want to show them that education is most definitely for them."

Most recently, Arvizu served as the Dean of Student Success at Taft College.

In the various leadership



roles she has held throughout her career, Arvizu has worked across a broad spectrum of initiatives and programs, including Integrated Planning, Guided Pathways, Student Success, Financial Aid, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Cooperative Agencies Resource for Education (CARE), California Work

Opportunities and Responsibilities to Kids (CalWORKS), McNair, Admissions and Records, Counseling, Athletics, TRIO, Title IX, Student Discipline, Assessment, Student Activities, and others.

"We are pleased to have Ms. Arvizu join the PC family. She has a significant amount of Student Services experience and focuses on the needs of the students," PC interim President Bill Henry said. "She is familiar with the district, our systems and many of our current Student Services staff. Ms. Arvizu will be a great addition to the administrative team and the entire PC family."

Arvizu holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in counseling with a concentration in student affairs from California State University, Bakersfield.

PC to Renovate Front Parking Lots This Summer

This summer, Porterville College will reconstruct its front campus parking lots (A and B) along College Avenue. The renovations, which are scheduled to begin May 14 and continue through August 12, will include asphalt removal, regrading, drainage

installation, irrigation replacement, and drought-tolerant landscaping.

This project is the final phase of PC's five-year parking lot refurbishment plan. The campus fire lane was upgraded in 2014 and in 2015, PC installed solar panels and new asphalt

in its rear campus parking lots. A year later, with support from the PC Foundation, the Jamison Stadium parking lots were resurfaced. The college plans to decrease the parking permit fee during the construction period.

During the con-

struction period, the stadium and solar-covered parking areas will be available for student and staff parking. The stadium lots will be accessible from Main Street. The solar-covered lots (C, D, and E) can be ac-

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PC Quick Hits

- On Wednesday, April 4, 60 Granite Hills High School freshmen from the Computer Operations & Development Education (CODE) pathway toured PC's campus and listened to presentations given by PC professors Jim Carson and Elisa Queenan.
- On Wednesday, April 11, the Veterans Resource Center hosted a chili cook-off. First place went to VRC student Danielle Archer, PC professor Craig Britton took second, and VRC student Adrian Castillo came in third.
- On Thursday, April 12, PC hosted a Preview Night event for about 35 high school juniors and their parents, who heard about the many programs and services available at PC.
- On Monday, April 16, through Wednesday, April 18, PC hosted its 12th annual PC Connection event. During the three-day event, 196 students were registered for the summer semester and 704 students for the fall semester.
- On Wednesday, April 25, 20 students from the Disability Resource Center were recognized for their academic success.
- On Friday, April 27, 130 EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs students were recognized for their academic success.

Community Invited to Provide Feedback May 14 on PC's Facilities Master Plan

The community is invited to participate in a meeting to provide feedback on Porterville College's Facilities Master Plan, which provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the needs of the college facilities for the benefit of students, dedicated faculty, and supportive service staff. The meeting will take place at 11 a.m. Monday, May 14, in the Student Center on PC's campus.

The Facilities Master Plan also will assist in aligning the college's Educational Master Plan with campus improvement and building projects that will be funded through the Measure J Bond. In November 2016, Porterville and its surrounding communities voted on and approved Measure J, which is providing

\$44 million to repair and upgrade the college's facilities. After celebrating the 90th anniversary of the college last year, a new chapter is being written at PC.

"PC's focus is on building and maintaining a sustainable infrastructure that provides for an inspiring place to teach and learn," PC Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Arlitha Harmon said.

Community members who are unable to attend the May 14 meeting are encouraged to complete PC's campus experience survey at www.portervillecollege.edu/facilityneeds. The information collected at the campus meeting and through the survey will shape the legacy of PC.

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cessed by entering through the gate off Plano Avenue and following the service road to the desired lot. Saturday Swap Meet customers will be able to park in the college grass parking lot off College Avenue in front of Pioneer Middle School.

Parking personnel will continually monitor the parking situation during the summer semester to determine if any modifications or additional contingency plans are necessary.

Those with any questions can contact PC's Maintenance & Operations Department at pcfilities@portervillecollege.edu.